

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month



Maya Lin

Over a million people each year make the pilgrimage to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the most visited piece of contemporary public art in our country. The creator: Maya Lin, who won the 1981 commission as a 21-year-old undergraduate student of architecture at Yale.

Lin is an artist of strong, powerful vision. The Civil Rights Memorial at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama (dedicated in 1989), is a compelling commemoration of the movement. With "TOPO" (1991), a median strip on the approach to the Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C. became a whimsical topiary garden. "Eclipsed Time," a 38-foot long elliptical clock, hangs above commuters' heads at the Long Island Railroad's ticketing area in Penn Station. Her architectural projects include the renovation of a SoHo loft for the Museum of African Art.

"Sculpture to me is like poetry, architecture is like prose," remarks Lin, who also quips that architects call her a sculptor and sculptors call her an architect. Indeed, her architectural designs have a hand-formed sense of composition, while many of her site-specific sculptural installations carve out space to be experienced. Says *Art in America*, "In all her work, there is a consistent visual intelligence that transcends categorization."

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